

REMARKS

The office action dated February 20, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claim 1 is allowed.

Claims 1 and 3-19 remain pending in this application. Claim 2 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 3 has been amended to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Support for these amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Claim 2, drawn to a non-elected invention, has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a divisional application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Election/Restriction

Applicants affirm the election to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1 and 3-19.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract of the disclosure is objected to for not describing the method as claimed. The Abstract has been amended. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that claim 3 never makes the fibrous monolith recited in the preamble. Claims 4-19 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Independent claim 3 has been amended to clarify that it is directed to a method for continuous formation of a fibrous monolith material. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, prompt reconsideration and full allowance of the claims pending in the subject application are respectfully requested. All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

The Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for any fees due in connection with the filing of this response.


If the Examiner should have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: May 20, 2004

By:



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